

PATENT
450100-3642.3RECEIVED
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SEP 22 2006

REMARKS

In the Office Action under reply, restriction was required as follows:

Group I claims 73-75, 77-79 and 81, which the Examiner characterized as being directed to signal encoding; and

Group II claims 76, 80 and 82-88, which the Examiner characterized as being directed to signal recording.

The Examiner asserts that Groups I and II "are related as subcombinations disclosed as usable together in a single combination." The Examiner also points out that, "[w]here applicant elects a subcombination and claims thereto are subsequently found allowable, any claim(s) depending from or otherwise requiring all the limitations of the allowable subcombination will be examined for patentability."

Applicants' representative contends the Group I claims are a subcombination of claims 76 and 80, and elects, without traverse, Group I claims 73-75, 77-79 and 81 for further prosecution in the present application. It is recognized that, since claims 73-35, 77-79 and 81 are a subcombination of claims 76 and 80, if any of these subcombination claims is allowed, claims 76 and 80 likewise should be allowed because the latter claims recite the same limitations as some of the Group I claims.

To simplify the prosecution of this application, non-elected claims 82-88 are cancelled.

Applicants reserve their right to present the non-elected claims in a divisional application for further prosecution.

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An early examination on the merits of the elected claims is solicited.

Respectfully submitted,
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